



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region 6

**1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733**

October 15, 2015

Mr. Gary D. Goeke
Chief, Environmental Assessment Section
Leasing and Environment (MS 5410)
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, LA 70133-2394

RE: Third Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for Gulf of Mexico
Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Western Planning Area Lease Sale 248

Dear Mr. Goeke:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas, has completed its review of the September 2015 FSEIS prepared by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

EPA provided comments on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on December 5, 2013, which was rated as "EC-2", i.e., EPA has "environmental concerns and requests additional information". Also, EPA provided comments on the Second Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on April 6, 2015. EPA is pleased that the DSEIS included additional analysis of the proposed action to address our concerns. We have no additional comments and look forward to receipt of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision document.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the DSEIS. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kimeka Price at (214)665-7438 or via email at price.kimeka@epa.gov for assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen A. Gilrein", is written over a horizontal line.

Stephen A. Gilrein, P.E.
Deputy Director
Compliance Assurance
and Enforcement Division

Enclosure